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DUTCH HAVEN

AN AMISH COUNTRY LANDMARK

Travelers have been traversing Lancaster County along Route 30 for well over two centuries. And for over 70 years, a very special building has signaled their arrival in Amish Country. It has a legitimate claim on being the area's oldest visitor landmark. Most importantly, it's the "place that made shoo-fly pie famous." That iconic structure is the Dutch Haven windmill.

With a history dating back to the beginnings of tourism here, the building is rich in memories. From the time it started as a luncheonette in 1920 right up to the present, it has remained most famous for shoo-fly pie, served warm with whipped cream. The Dutch Haven shoo-fly pie has even been mentioned in a TIME magazine article.

Today, as soon as you walk in, you'll be offered a free sample of that same delicious, gooey pie. Some 40,000 pies are baked annually, using the original (secret) recipe.

Come Taste
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Visitors are still encouraged to "Take one for yourself or send one to someone nice." You can buy and ship pies home at the store or at their "online shop," where you'll find other local crafts as well.

Yes, Dutch Haven is much more than pies, with over 10,000 unique gift items, foods, and collectibles. Some of the most popular are jams, jellies, and canned goods, noodles, Amish pine furniture and cedar chests, hex signs, quilted spice mats, Amish straw hats, jewelry and gemstones, Dutch

Delft tiles, Amish dolls, onyx and soapstone animals, trivets, metal stars, Tiffany lamps, Amish romance novels, framed prints, plenty of T-shirts and postcards, and a tremendous selection of Amish-made outdoor furniture. It's an eclectic mix, to say the least.

As you explore, you'll discover lots of other "surprises" around every corner. Expect the unexpected! And don't forget the Amish-style root beer in the barrel.

Dutch Haven is open 5 days a week, Monday and Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. *Closed Tuesday and Wednesday.* For more info about this Lancaster County landmark, call 717.687.0111. Look forward to your free sample when you walk in under the welcoming arms of the windmill for this truly is the place that made shoo-fly pie famous. 

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Sugar, Spice, & Seventy-Six Years of Nice

By Clinton Martin

When you've stepped foot in as many bake shops, gift shops, and attractions in Lancaster County as I have over the last fifteen years, you'd be forgiven for being a bit jaded with the usual primitives, country décor, and rustic chic that seems to overflow every retail shelf in the area.

Luckily for me, I found there is still a refreshing breath of fresh air to shop in Lancaster County, and it is none other than the original Amish Country destination, Dutch Haven. Celebrating 76 years in 2022, Dutch Haven occupies rarified air in that the swinging arms of the big Dutch Haven windmill building along Route 30 (the historic Lincoln Highway) have been beckoning travelers come inside for "Amish Stuff" since 1946.

From day one, and only more so now, Dutch Haven was responsible for making Shoo Fly Pie famous. In the early days, Dutch Haven had a fully-fledged restaurant, serving PA Dutch specialties. Today, there's no restaurant on site, but the bakery has only grown, to provide not only that aforementioned "breath of fresh air" – I was totally charmed, and



more than a little entranced, by the delectable smell of baking pies in the kitchen when I was given a behind the scenes tour during my most recent visit – but also a wide variety of baked goodies.

I spied in the original Dutch Haven menu that a slice of Shoo Fly Pie topped with real whipped cream cost only 35 cents! But, you don't even have to part with three dimes

and a nickel today, as a taste of Shoo Fly Pie is offered free to everyone that visits Dutch Haven. And yes, the free taste is topped with real whipped cream! So if you don't know what Shoo Fly Pie is, and want to try a bite before you take the plunge into the whole confection, Dutch Haven is a must-do. Of course, if you like what you taste, you can buy Shoo Fly Pie by the slice, or whole pie, straight from the bakery. You can also ship a pie to friends and family, essentially anywhere in the US, right from Dutch Haven's famous on-site bakery. Ship a Pie from the store itself, by phone (717-687-0111) or through their website www.DutchHaven.com.

While the baked goods will surely tempt you as they did me, there are also other Amish

Country pantry-stuffers available from multiple local artisans at Dutch Haven. Think honey from local apiaries (beekeepers), PA Dutch Chow Chow, spiced dilly beans, and other jarred goods like jams and jellies, as well as dips, mustards, and seven bean salads all carefully preserved and canned for your enjoyment long after your trip to Lancaster County is over.

Dutch Haven: The Original Taste of Amish Country

Dutch Haven estimates, because who could possibly really count, that the gift shop surrounding the bakery has 10,000 items to browse. This is also where I found Dutch Haven to be unique, as simply put they had all that I expected them to have, but for every one of those “of course” items, they had at least three that I never could have fathomed. Not only Amish Country and Lancaster County can be found here, but a totally indescribable variety of themes and selections from the whole universe of novelty, gift, fun, whimsy, cool, and colorful. If you have a hard-to-buy-for friend or family member, you will find something they’ll love at Dutch Haven, and something that they’ll wonder “Where did you find this? It is perfect for me!”

So after you’ve picked up the famous Shoo Fly Pie, a jug of Dutch Haven’s own Amish recipe root beer (it is totally different from the commercially produced stuff – you’ve got to try it to understand what I mean) and a maybe a half dozen jars of Amish Country’s best

grocery items, you’ll need to take a few spins through the clothing, home décor, fantasy creatures, American made rocking chairs and wind chimes, and the other surprisingly one-of-a-kind souvenir choices that Dutch Haven stocks after 76 years of thriving and surviving in Lancaster County’s Amish Country visitor destination.

Finding your way to Dutch Haven cannot be any easier. It is truly impossible to pass by without knowing it. Just look for the big, swinging windmill along Route 30. GPS - 2857A Lincoln Highway East, Ronks PA 17572. There is plenty of free parking behind the store. Grab your taste of Amish Country – steeped in history, fresh today. 🐄



We always welcome visitors with a free sample of shoo-fly pie.



A 1957 advertisement for Dutch Haven Shoo-Fly Pies.



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN



FEBRUARY 25 - APRIL 16

Set in Hollywood in the late 1920's, the story focuses on Don Lockwood, his sidekick Cosmo Brown, aspiring actress Kathy Selden, and Lockwood's leading lady Lina Lamont, who's less-than-pleasant vocal tones make her an improbable contender for stardom in the new talking pictures. This all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza includes memorable songs such as *Good Mornin'*, *Make 'Em Laugh* and the show-stopping *Singin' in the Rain!*



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Mountain Music's PA Dutch Instrumental Heritage

by Clinton Martin

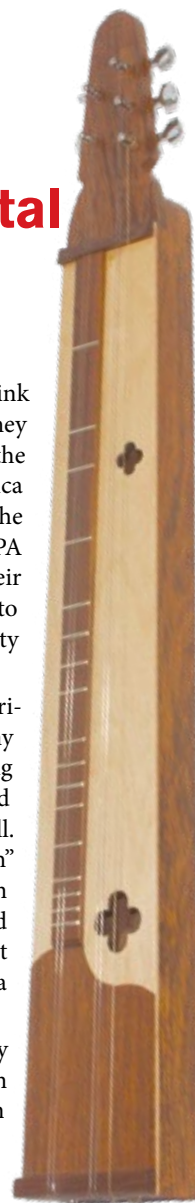
When people think of PA Dutch, they often think of the Amish. Indeed in America today, the Amish are the most conspicuous of the PA Dutch roots, simply by their lack of assimilation into the mainstream of society around them.

But, the PA Dutch heritage encompasses many German groups, including Lutheran, Catholic, and many smaller sects as well. It was these "Fancy Dutch" (as opposed to the "Plain Dutch" of the Amish and Mennonites) that brought the "Scheitholt" to America from Germany.

The Scheitholt, by name, might be foreign to you, but the modern American adaptation of this 18th century German import is probably not – that's the much-loved Appalachian dulcimer (or mountain dulcimer, or lap dulcimer.)

Mountain Music throughout the Appalachian range relies heavily on the sound of the dulcimer, and while the rudimentary design of the original Scheitholt has been out of style for at least 200 years in America, there are pockets of interest, most notably among PA Dutch historical societies, that are preserving, and even commissioning new reproductions of the instrument for their memberships.

The Scheitholt was played similarly to the modern zither. It was placed horizontally on a table or on the player's lap, the left hand pressed the strings with a wooden stick sometimes called a 'noter', while the thumb and index finger plucked the strings either directly, or with a horn or wooden plectrum, or with a goose quill. 



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AND THE WINNER IS...

2021 Amish Country News Photo Contest Winners

(Above) Grand Prize Winner

"Country Roads"

by Natalie Osorio, Harrington DE

www.inhisimage.studio

Every year, I look daily at my inbox to see what pictures may have come in as entries in the Annual *Amish Country News* Photo Contest. Each time I click to open a photo, I am a little excited, because I never know what I may see. Sometimes I actually gasp with delight, or give a soft-spoken "Wow" under my breath. This year was no exception. 🐮

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

2022 *Amish Country News* Photo Contest



Amish Country...one of the most photographed areas in the world. Got great photos? Send them to us and see YOUR photo in the pages of *Amish Country News*. Winners will receive free tour and attraction tickets. Other prizes to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd runners-up. All are judged on quality, color, subject matter and resolution and should depict scenes, aspects, events or activities typical to Lancaster, PA or the PA Dutch Country region.

Email your high resolution (Minimum size 8x10 at 300 DPI) photos in JPG format to clinton@amishexperience.com. Put 2022 Photo Contest in the subject line. File names should contain your name. Include your name, address and phone number with brief details on the location, date and subject matter. We accept photos via email, and request no more than five photos by the same person be submitted. **HIGH RESOLUTION PICS ONLY!!! Low resolution pixelated images WILL NOT be accepted.** Please note that photos become property of *Amish Country News* / *Amish Experience* and may be used in upcoming issues, publications, and promotions.



Second Place Winner

"Sun Rise Farm" — by Suzanne Mayer, Lafayette Township, New Jersey

I took this photo on the morning of March 27, 2021 when my husband and I were driving from the Amish Country Motel in Bird-in-Hand to Garden Spot Village in New Holland to run the half marathon. The sun was about to rise in the distance. Not sure what road we were on.



Third Place Winner

"All American Roadside Farm Stand"

— by Natalie Osorio, Harrington DE
www.inhisimage.studio



Honorable Mention 1

"Pondering Winter" — by Zelda A. Rowley, Lancaster PA

This photo was taken while on a walk in the snow around a local pond in East Lampeter Township, Lancaster County on March 4, 2019.



Honorable Mention 2

"Sunburst Sky"

— by Suzanne Mayer, Lafayette Township, NJ

We were set up on a site at the edge of a farm field with a view to the west. On the first night, we watched a gorgeous sunset across over the field. The sky really was this color for just a few minutes as the sun reached the horizon.



Honorable Mention 3

"Springtime Colors Abound"

— by Ray Smecker, Gap, PA

On the way home, I stopped at this spot and looked up and saw these beautiful rainbows arching over the very peaceful valley. Happy Spring!

For The First-Time Visitor



Here in Lancaster County, over 40,000 Amish (pronounced Ah-mish, not Ai-mish) serve as living reminders of a quieter time, a time when the horse and buggy was the mode of transportation and families lived and died in the same small communities. The first Amish, so named for Jakob Ammann, arrived in Lancaster County and nearby Berks and Chester counties in the early 1700s to take part in William Penn's "Holy Experiment" of religious freedom. Originally called Anabaptists, they came to America from Europe to escape religious persecution by both Protestants and Catholics. The county is now home to three Anabaptist groups called the Amish, Mennonite and Brethren.

In 1525, after the Reformation, a group of Swiss Brethren felt that only adults should be baptized. They met secretly in a member's home and confirmed their faith by re-baptizing each other as adults, even though they had been baptized as infants in the state church. Thus, they became known as Anabaptists, which means re-baptizers.

Because of their beliefs in adult baptism, non-violence, and separation of church and state, they were viewed as "radicals," and thousands were tortured and killed in the following years. Nevertheless, the religion spread into other areas of Europe.

In time, the different Anabaptist groups became known as Mennists or Mennonites, after the greatest of the Anabaptist leaders, Menno Simons. It was in the late 1600's that Ammann broke away to form a group that more strictly adhered to the founding beliefs and practices of the first Anabaptists.

The differences between the various Amish, Mennonite, and Brethren groups are in their interpretations of the Bible, their uses of modern technologies such as automobiles and electricity, the values they place on education, their uses of English, and their degrees of interaction with outsiders.

The Amish believe that "worldliness" keeps one from being close to God, so they choose to live without many modern conveniences and technology, such as cars, television, videos, etc. Rather than use the electrical grid, they have bottled gas stoves and refrigerators.

They do not live in seclusion from the rest of the world. Amish farms can be seen

interspersed with modern farms throughout the countryside, and there is much daily interaction between the Amish and the non-Amish ("English") community. Contrary to popular belief, the Amish do not live the same way they did 300 years ago. They have adopted many things to make life easier, but are careful not to accept new technology without considering its effects on their family and community lifestyle. 

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For Plain People, Sunday is a day of rest, but there are many things to do in Amish Country on Sundays. Save some of these for your Sunday sight-seeing.

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The Goodie Gang and the Formation of the New Order Amish Church

By Clinton Martin

When most visitors to Lancaster County think of the Amish, the lifestyle, traditions, beliefs, and customs they often imagine would be most likely descriptive of the Old Order Amish. But, the Old Order Amish are not the only Anabaptist group in Lancaster County to make use of the name Amish.

Indeed, the New Order Amish aren't as well-known to visitors to the area. This evangelical branch of the Amish root came to the fore in Lancaster County starting in the early 1950's.

Many consider the "Brunk Revivals" to be the genesis of the local New Order Amish movement. In 1951, evangelist George Brunk came to Lancaster with a full array of tents, inviting anyone to attend religious revival meetings. The events attracted large numbers of Mennonite and like-minded Anabaptist youth.

From attending the revival sessions, some Old Order Amish youth decided to seek a more evangelical practicing of their faith, which technically put them at odds with some of the Old Order teachings. These youth formed a "gang" which came to be known as the Goodies. (As in goody-two-shoes) since they specifically avoided the "rumpspringa" activities of the typical Old Order group of the time. The nickname was at first given as a bit of a criticism, but then stuck being adopted by the members themselves.

For generations upon generations, Amish youth have joined a "gang" or youth group to socialize and meet and greet. The word gang not having anything to do with the modern urban iteration of the term, but rather simply describing a gathering of friends that socialize together.

The Goodie Gang held Bible studies, hymn sings, and other similar events, and actively tried to recruit members of the more "wild" youth groups to join them. Their spiritual boldness and zeal for revivalist upheaval of Old Order norms pushed them to the fringe of Amish society. Their youthful zeal was not alone. Indeed some of the Amish church leadership of the time began to show revivalist leanings.

David A. Miller, an Amish bishop from Oklahoma who traveled to the various Amish population centers on preaching tours, stirred up these feelings among the Lancaster County

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Old Order Amish membership. While his sermons were in the traditional German language, everything else about his lectures were a bit of a departure from the Old Order

tenements. Miller preached in the Lancaster Old Order Amish community while on a 10-day preaching tour visit. The year was

Continued on Page 14

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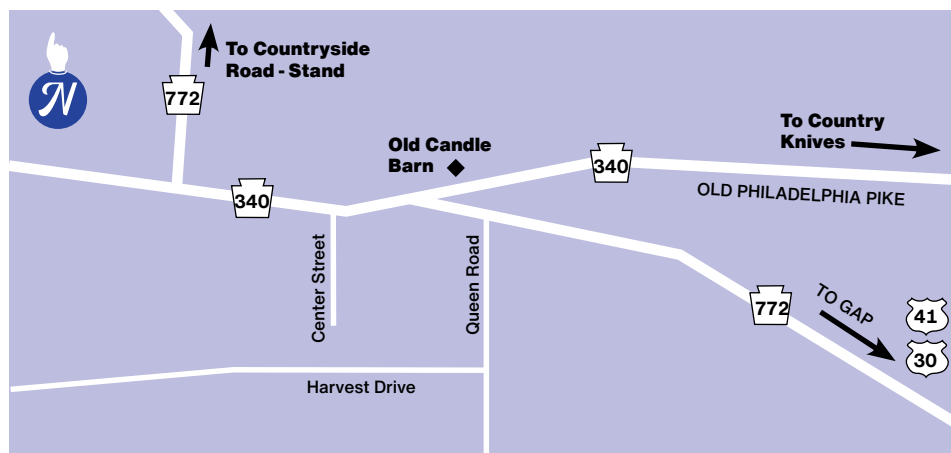
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It's More Than a Name. Intercourse



Probably no other town in Amish Country can claim its fame is owed largely to one simple thing... its name. For years people have sent letters home with the name stamped boldly on the envelope. Intercourse, PA. There are several explanations for the name, and they are woven into the brief history that follows.

In the beginning, of course, there was very little here, just settlers arriving in the New World from Europe. Back around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (or Old Philadelphia Pike, Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with the inland town of Lancaster. Conestoga wagons, pulled by six to eight horses, hauled supplies and freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and business transactions. And that is how the town got started when the first building, a log tavern, was constructed in 1754. The

Newport Road, a former Indian trail, came from Newport, Delaware to the south, and it is believed that because of these intersecting roads the tavern took "Cross Keys" as its name.

That was true at least until 1814, when it was named Intercourse in a real estate scheme to establish a more sizable town. George Brungard had acquired 48 acres of land north of the roads in 1813. He attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of \$250 each to be drawn for by number."

The newspaper advertisement stressed "the great importance of so many turnpikes and great leading roads intersecting at and near this place." As one writer had noted "intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which was more common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village of that day."



Summit Hill Bluegrass Band will play a Memorial Day Weekend concert at Flory's Cottages & Camping. Get a site to see the set! Visit floryscamping.com

And this brings us to yet another theory on the town's name. From the east end of town, on a mile long straightaway, horse races were conducted. Since the races began at that end of town, this was the "Enter Course," and this name eventually became Intercourse. Indeed, a postal historian, Arthur B. Gregg claims that the town's name was actually changed from "Entercourse" to "Intercourse," and notes that "there was no hesitancy on the part of the United States Post office Department to accept the name 'Intercourse' since it meant a commercial or trading site."

But back to our story and Brungard's scheme. Although lotteries had been used for many years to sell various things, his real estate lottery failed, and most of the land was combined into one tract. More recently, in 1971, another person tried to take advantage of

Continued on Page 14

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From Fun Hobbies to Small Business The Creation of Homeland Interiors

by Edward Blanchette

What started as a hobby in Samuel Riehl Jr's garage, turned into a positively growing and rewarding business. Opening back in April of 2021, at a different location, Samuel recreated this new location for his business and turned it into a warm, inviting, and intriguing workshop & showroom. Now known as *Homeland Interiors*, *Homeland Interiors* specializes specifically in custom furniture, ranging from entertainment centers, TV stands, console tables, server tables, desks, kitchen islands, and much more. You can bring in your own designs or Homeland Interiors can design it for you.

Homeland Interiors uses a wide range of natural materials to bring out that added value and beauty in your professionally crafted piece. Utilizing different species of wood, reclaimed and otherwise, such as maple and oak, among others, to bring out the special qualities in your custom piece. They

also have lots of sliding barndoor options that you can have created for your special project in mind. They also do minor home improvements including, but not limited to, wood accent walls, building and installing custom made sliding barn doors, in addition to the wide variety of home decor and one of a kind floating shelf options! If you can dream it, they can build it!



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Intercourse Continued from Page 12

the town's name and sell one-inch square plots of property to visitors. This plan proved to be a flop as well.

In the old days, there were only five houses, counting the inn, and the town grew slowly. But by 1880, Intercourse had 54 homes and a population of 280. Communications improved with the arrival of the post office, and later the telephone.

Getting the first post office up and running was a difficult matter. The main problem was finding a building and someone willing to perform the duties of a postmaster. The first, Benjamin Fraim, performed his duties from the Cross Keys Tavern, and may have had a job working there, since "his income, based on a percentage of the postal transactions for the year ending 1829 was only \$8.21." Over the years the post office moved among stores or restaurants whose owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service apparently started around 1898. It was "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." The stagecoach brought items from Lancaster City for local Intercourse businesses, and even picked up milk, butter, and eggs for delivery to Lancaster restaurants and industries, including an ice cream plant. One history of Intercourse notes that when it snowed, a bobsled was used instead. "When the driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort was added to by many a hot brick heated the night before in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve its warmth."

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach days with the Rowe Motor Truck service started by Coleman Diller in 1910. In 1923 the Penn Highway Transit Company was organized and initiated bus service to Lancaster. It is noted that "many of

the Amish residents of the area were anxious to see the line started, but did not care to subscribe to stock. Instead they liberally bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." By 1924 enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for \$6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires!

Perhaps the biggest date in Intercourse town history was November Election Day, 1892. Folks arrived at the Cross Keys Tavern, still the social center of town and the place to cast ballots. The political events were soon overshadowed by a cry of "Fire!" A barn fire, possibly started by children playing with matches, soon went out of control. Bells rang and volunteers with buckets came running, but the wind blew sparks to other buildings and the fire spread. Barns, warehouses, homes, and the town store were soon in flames. One story claims the store's watchdog refused to leave its post and died in the fire. People tried to salvage what they could, piling things along the road. One family cut off the legs of their Grand Piano to remove it from the house. Nearly twenty years later, in 1911, the residents finally formed the Intercourse Fire Company.

There have been some interesting organizations in the town's history. One was the Horse Thief Association of 1870. Annual membership cost 25 cents and rewards were offered. Another was the Intercourse Glider Club, formed in 1931. They bought a glider, and self-taught themselves to fly after being launched via shock-cord or pulled by a car. It is said that in exchange for storing the glider in the firehouse, they polished the engine brass.

There have always been a lot of businesses in the town in relation to its size. The two well-known stores in town were Wenger's General Store and Zimmerman and Sons. Opened in 1833, Wenger's was the first store in town. Ultimately, it was owned by a family named Worst, resulting in jokes about "the Worst store in Intercourse." 



Whether Old Order or New Order, the Amish enjoy having fun. Their plain way of life doesn't exclude amusements like a good old-fashioned hay ride.

Goodie Gang Continued from Page 11

1952. The unusual tone of his sermons caused concern among the Amish leaders. Arriving at his home in Oklahoma before he actually did was a letter from the Lancaster Amish elders informing him that he was no longer welcome to visit. But, his teachings had taken hold, and the wheels of a schism had begun to turn, and wouldn't be able to be stopped.

By 1966, the division was complete, and 100 formerly Old Order Amish families broke away and started the New Order Amish church. While the Old Order and the New Order have many things in

Continued on Page 21

Zimmerman's gained fame when Harrison Ford made a phone call from its porch in the movie WITNESS. In the old days, there was lots of trading, with farmers exchanging items like hides, butter, and even soap for store merchandise. April 1st was the yearly date when each party paid the other whatever the balance was in the exchanges of the year. On more than one occasion the store ended up with too much of an item, and sometimes excess soap and rags were sold to the Lancaster County Prison. Over the years, the store had the town's first mechanical refrigeration, first radio set, and first gasoline pump. To give you an idea of how the uses of a building changed, the current Country Crossings shop was formerly an International Harvester dealership, barbershop, income tax business, and hardware store.

Just as stores changes, so did occupations. John Bearn, for example, was a village baker, restaurant owner, postmaster, justice of the peace, and electrical inspector!

Since the town never really got to be "too large," it has retained much of its sense of community, from the little public library in a former one-room school to the volunteer fire company. Surrounded by farms, the town has grown little and retains much of its former charm, even when thousands of visitors descend upon it during the tourist season. Many residents and visitors enjoy the atmosphere of this small town, a place where family, community, religion, and hard work are still important values. The village of Intercourse has certainly changed over the years, but it has changed slowly, and "sometimes the things that grow the slowest are the ones that endure the longest." 

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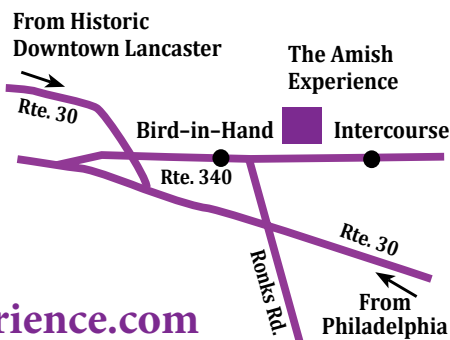
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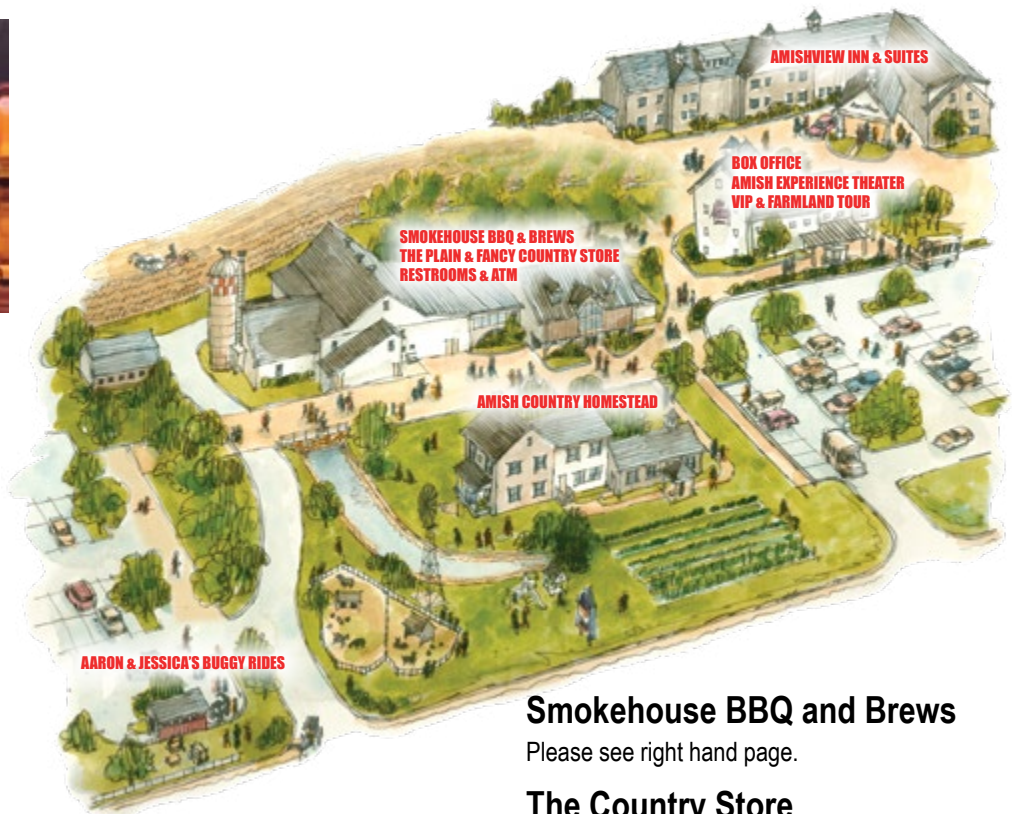
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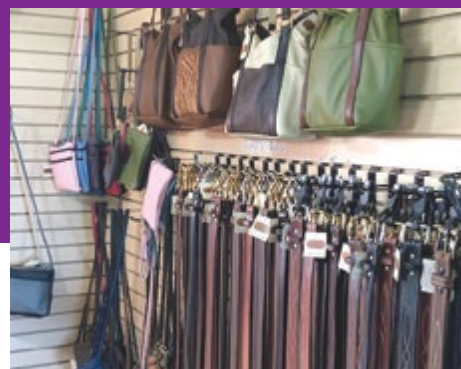
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for those traveling west to the Alleghenies, Lancaster became known as the gateway to the west." The trip by stagecoach for passengers, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building.

The reason for these signs was twofold. First, they could be understood by all nationalities. Secondly, many teamsters or wagoners were poorly educated and could not read. If they were given orders to stop at a certain inn, they could do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The old legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand concerns the time when this pike was being laid out. Legend says that two road surveyors were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or go to the town of Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and so they remained. The sign in front

Continued on Page 21

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand.

The story of the town of Bird-in-Hand is as colorful as the name itself. To be correct, the town is really a village, since it has no governing body. When Bird-in-Hand celebrated its 250th Anniversary (1734–1984), a commemorative booklet was put together. It outlined a brief history of the town...

The William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods (Pennsylvania), and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from the port city of Philadelphia. English Quakers and Swiss Mennonites

were the early settlers. The Quakers built a meetinghouse and two-story academy, which stands today, next to the fire company. But over the years, the Germans "made the greatest lasting impact."

A friendly relationship existed between the early settlers and the Shawnee and Conestoga Indians, who were, of course, the area's first inhabitants. They taught settlers how to deaden trees, use deerskin, prepare corn as food, and use medicinal herbs. But as the white settlement grew, there was less hunting available, and many Indians became peddlers or beggars.

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of the inn is known to have once “portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched,” and soon was known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn.

The original hotel was destroyed by fire about 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was known as Bitzer’s Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County noted that it “may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity.”

The Bird-in-Hand Mill, built by James Gibbons in 1770 at the west end of town, “is probably the oldest mill in Lancaster County that is still being used” commercially, now known as Nolt’s Mill. The datestone in the wall has the misspelled word “biult,” perhaps an error made by a local German.

Gibbons is an important name in the town’s history. Quaker activists, the Gibbonses operated the primary “underground railroad station” for slaves escaping from the South. It is said that Hannah and Daniel Gibbons helped about 1,000 slaves. “A single tap on the window at night indicated to everyone in the family that a fugitive was there. The escapees were taken to the barn and in the morning brought to the house separately,” where each was given a new identity.

The year 1834 marked the beginning of construction of the 86-mile Pennsylvania Railroad line between Philadelphia and Columbia. Bird-in-Hand, with its tanneries, feed mills, coal and lumberyards, was the most important stop on the Lancaster to Coatesville section. Horses were used to pull the cars. In

1836 a second track was laid and locomotives began pulling the cars.

Well into the 1900’s, everything from flowers to live ducks were shipped from the village to large cities by the railroad. As late as the 1950’s, mail was “hung from a long arm and caught by a moving train.”

Even with a bridge over the tracks, there were fatalities and an underpass was dug so that the main street would go under the train tracks. It opened in 1928. To this day, road traffic goes under the train tracks on Rte. 340.

Some of the other interesting businesses around the village over the years have included a Christmas tree plantation, archery targets, potato chips, dried corn, ceramics, wagons, carriages, and raising ducks.

The town post office was established in 1836 as the Enterprise Post Office. “Enterprise” was then the official name of the town, until the final change back to Bird-in-Hand in 1873.

After a large fire in 1896, people discussed the need for a fire company. In the early days, hitting a circular saw alerted the men of a fire. The year 1916 saw the change from horse-drawn to motorized fire equipment. Today the Hand-in-Hand Fire Company remains a volunteer organization, famous for its delicious fund-raiser dinners.

The town of Bird-in-Hand remained relatively unknown until a musical called *PLAIN & FANCY* opened in New York. The show *Playbill* noted that “The action takes place in and around Bird-in-Hand, a town in the Amish country of Pennsylvania.” The cast was brought to Bird-in-Hand on January 17, 1955, prior to the official opening.

Today, the town of Bird-in-Hand is still small, said to have a population of only about



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300 people. On any given day, there may be more visitors than inhabitants. Many are city-folks who have come to enjoy the country atmosphere, history, and shopping. It is said that visitors can “still expect friendly shopkeepers, homegrown Lancaster County foods, and restful lodging for weary travelers.” 

Goodie Gang

Continued from Page 14

common (plain dress, horse-and-buggy transportation, PA Dutch language usage, etc.) there are some notable differences.

The New Order Amish have less restrictions on telephone usage, a global mission-minded ministry, can make use of air travel without restriction, prohibit alcohol and tobacco use, and conduct formal Bible studies in a Sunday School or youth Bible school setting.

Interestingly enough, in certain ways the New Order seem progressive as compared to the Old Order, but in other ways are actually more conservative. 

The New Order Amish live primarily in area surrounding the Lancaster County town of Gap, a main intersection of Routes 30 and 41.



There's No Place Quite Like

Lititz



There is no place quite like Lititz, and everyone should plan to spend some time there while in Amish Country. Lititz Springs Park is a popular spot for locals, and the site for many community activities. Indeed, the town's 4th of July Celebration, begun in 1818, is reputedly the *oldest continuing community-wide observance in the United States*. Historians say the springs are what brought Indians to the area. Spearheads have been found nearby, dating back to 6,000 B.C. A recent local journal states that "Main Street was traveled by human beings for at least 10,000 years." When you come to Lititz, you'll want to travel Main Street, too. A good

place to begin is The Lititz Museum and Historical Foundation, which can be reached at 717.627.4636. The museum is one of the most tastefully and professionally arranged town museums you are likely to see anywhere. The exhibit rooms give you background on the town's history, from its founding in 1756. Visitors are amazed at the two parquet clocks, made by resident Rudolf S. Carpenter in the early 1900's. The larger of the two consists of over 50,000 pieces of wood! Admission to the museum includes a tour of the nearby Johannes Mueller House, for a look at life in old Lititz. The house is practically unchanged from its completion in 1792. For visitors



Coming June 2022, Lititz Ambucs' Crafts in the Park is held for one day, rain or shine, with crafts abounding throughout. Spend a day in the Park!

interested in the town's historic structures, the Foundation also has an excellent walking tour brochure.

The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. It was in the present-day

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Czech Republic that John Hus and followers founded the Moravian Church in 1457. Historians note that since this was 60 years before Luther's Reformation, the Moravians may lay claim to being the oldest organized Protestant Church. But over the course of the Thirty Years War, its 200,000 members nearly disappeared. In the 18th century, a renewal of the Moravian Church came through the patronage of Count Zinzendorf of Saxony. He invited all those persecuted for their faith to come to his lands in Saxony.

As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom by taking the perilous journey to the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with the main settlements becoming established in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Missionary work was integral to the faith, and preachers were sent from the Moravian community in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Zinzendorf himself arrived in America in 1742. A local resident, John Klein (Kline), was so moved by hearing Zinzendorf's preaching that he made arrangements to transfer his lands over to the Moravian community in 1755. It was in the following year that the town actually got the name of Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European Moravian reformers had taken refuge in 15th century.

In addition to mission work, music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For about a hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in town. A Brothers' House and Sisters' House were erected for the unmarried, although they did not live communally. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own houses. The Brothers' House played a role in the American Revolution. George Washington ordered it used as a military hospital between 1777-78. Some 1,000 soldiers were nursed here, about half of whom died and were buried nearby.

Two names are linked forever with the history of Lititz—Sturgis and Sutter. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery is unlike any other. Inside, you get to try your hand at pretzel twisting. It's not as easy as it looks. Guests also may see the old brick bake ovens, as well as the more modern facilities. The bakery can be reached at 717.626.4354.

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John Sutter was born in Switzerland and in 1834, fleeing creditors in Europe, arrived in New York. In time, he headed west and sailed up the Sacramento River to begin a settlement. By 1848, work was being done on a mill when some gold flakes were spotted in the water. Soon Gold Rush fever struck and Sutter's land was overrun. Because of his need to be near Washington, D.C. while seeking reimbursement for his lost lands, the Sutters stayed one summer at the Springs Hotel in Lititz. They decided to settle there,

and promptly bought a home and placed their children in school. The hotel once named the General Sutter Inn, is now known as the Bull's Head Inn. The Sutter home built in 1871 is across the street at 19 East Main Street. It was in a Washington hotel room where Sutter died in 1880, still involved in unsuccessful attempts at redress from the government for his seized lands. Sutter, a Lutheran, was buried in the Moravian cemetery, normally reserved for Moravian church members. 

They Go By The Name of *New Holland & Blue Ball*



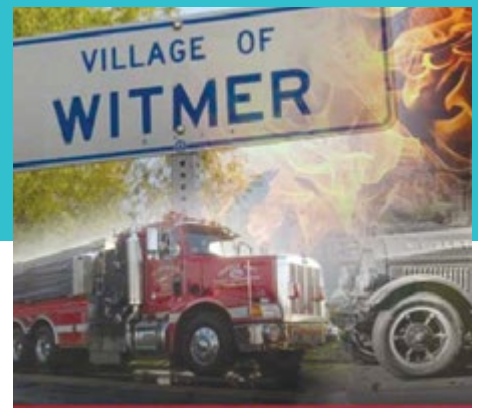
The northeastern part of Lancaster County offers many intriguing small towns and attractions. Coming from Ephrata on Rte. 322, you will arrive in Blue Ball and the intersection with Rte. 23. The town got its name from the Blue Ball Hotel, built more than two hundred years ago. In the early 18th century, John Wallace built a small building in Earl Town at the intersection of two Native trails, French Creek Path (now Rte. 23) and Paxtang (Rte. 322). He hung a blue ball out front from a post and called it "The Sign of the Blue Ball." Locals soon began calling the town "Blue Ball" after the inn, and in 1833, Earl Town officially became Blue Ball. Continuing west, you will arrive in the town of New Holland.

The unstable situation in Europe in the late 1600s spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania—60 miles inland from

Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Being a Quaker, William Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony on the idealistic basis of complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War has raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. Some towns were burned out two or three separate times during the period. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area.

These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new



Ox Roast Season is back in Lancaster County! The Witmer Fire Company will offer take-out meals on April 23, 2022. Call 717-393-1259 for details.

start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found willing ears. In addition to complete religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres. (At today's rate exchange, this would be less than \$.06 an acre, plus a small annual "quit rent.") By the year 1702, a goodly number of Palatinates had immigrated to Pennsylvania, and Queen Anne, newly reigning in England, was delighted that Penn was colonizing his immense grant without drawing off the population of Britain.

The area now called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timber of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut. By 1728, William Penn, had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania and was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

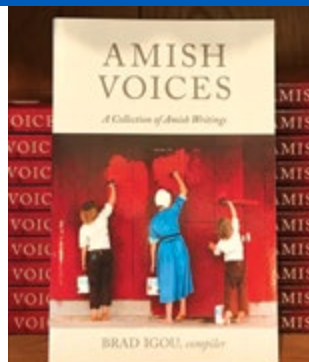
In 1729 the Proprietary Legislature started to establish inland counties, and the following year Lancaster County was divided into 17 townships. Because the first settler in this general area was at Groffdale, the township was named after him, with the English equivalent of his German name which is Earl. Consequently the settlement was referred to as "Earltown." Michael Diffenderfer named his real estate development New Design in 1750. In 1802 when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no dissension to naming the town New Holland.

The Dutch assistance is thought to have included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage. It was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was a liberation compared to the Europe they fled. Except for the Netherlands, there was no other country that offered

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In *Amish Voices*, Amish writers share news and advice from their communities and reflect on their daily lives, work, and faith. Brad Igou, author of *The Amish Speak*, gives readers a behind-the-scenes tour of Amish life by compiling writing from *Family Life*, a popular monthly magazine that thousands of Amish people read. Learn about how the Amish began and what they value. Hear what they think about technology, happiness, community, obedience, success, and change.

Much popular literature on the Amish taps into sentiments of nostalgia or sensationalism, revealing more about the author and audience than the Amish themselves. This book lets the Amish speak in their own voice. — John Dr. Ruth, Director, Mennonite Historical Library



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complete freedom of religion, assembly and speech to all.

The village founders were German, not Dutch. They were surrounded by English and Welsh Quakers, Episcopalians, a few Swiss-German Mennonites and some Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The Amish arrived later.

Although these pioneer settlers found all they had hoped for in peaceful existence and freedom of worship, it should not be thought this was necessarily a land of "milk and honey." There were many hardships during these early years. Swarms of locusts ravaged the area in 1732. Severe earthquakes were active throughout eastern Pennsylvania in 1737. Two successive seasons of poor crops (1750-51) followed by three years of drought (1752-54). A hailstorm in 1763 dropped hailstones as large as turkey eggs killing many small animals. During the very hard winter of 1780 twenty inches of ice formed on the ponds, and the ears of sheep and cattle had frozen.

New Holland was laid out as a "street town" in the typical European style of having the villagers live in a central location along both sides of the street, but each having an outlying plot of land to cultivate in addition to his trade as a craftsman. Even today, the main street of New Holland has major "kinks" or bends in it. Unsympathetic visitors claim it looks as if the town were built along a "cow path." If one looks with a discerning eye, the street also follows the high ground. The land on the ridge was the driest and in winter it would be blown clear of much of the snow. These settlers made the obvious facts of nature work for them rather than against them.

Surveying as practiced in the 1700's was not a precise craft. The records show that the Horse Shoe Road was one of only three public roads in early Lancaster County. (Today it's mostly Rte. 23.) It was surveyed in 1737 to connect Lancaster with the Coventry Iron works in Chester County. But in 1795, when Earl Township supervisors had it resurveyed, they found the correct location where it passed through New Holland was somewhat to the south of the existing Main Street. Furthermore, the roadway was only 33 feet wide instead of the 50 feet supposedly specified. The citizens appealed to the County Court for relief, which was granted, so the Horse Shoe Road through New Holland was accepted as it existed in fact, and the maps were changed accordingly. Most of Main Street remains only 33' wide today.

New Holland is a charming small town similar to many small towns in rural America. The strength of New Holland lies in its people, who "want to be free to work hard, strive for excellence, and have a pride in their rich heritage." 

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Aisles and aisles of antiques at Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall in Paradise. www.cackleberryfarmantiquemall.com

By Ed Blanchette

Do you enjoy searching for antiques? Perhaps you are looking for that special something, or you just enjoy searching for a surprise to add to your home decor. Maybe you hope to find an item worthy of an "Antique Roadshow." Whatever you discover, once you find it, it becomes your personal treasure.

What makes Lancaster County such a great place to "go antiquing?" One obvious answer

would be that this area has a rich history going back hundreds of years to the first settlers in the early 1700's. Many of us have stuff in our attics that we have forgotten about, or inherited. Who knows what may be out there either at a yard sale or an antique shop?

But just being an area rich in heritage doesn't make you an antique "Mecca." Here in Lancaster County, however, we boast thousands of antique shops and dealers. The Adamstown area alone has over 3,000 antiques dealers, and is known as Antiques

Capital, U.S.A. The many locations stretch out along Route 272, just off Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 286.

Whether you are after a rarity, or just something old that intrigues you, you'll find everything from sheet music to music boxes, pocket watches to kitchen sinks, nostalgic clothes to beautiful wardrobes to hang them in. Glassware, crafts, toys, clothes, artwork, china, quilts and fabrics, memorabilia.... the list is virtually endless! 🐾

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The Woodpecker Family— The Birdhouses and Birdfeeders of Good's Store

By Susan Burkholder

Dave Fisher began his business for the same reason so many small enterprises start. "I wanted my work to be at home with the family. I was missing a lot of opportunities with the children, and I wanted to change that." So in 2011, Dave and his family launched The Woodpecker Family, which makes one-of-a-kind wooden birdfeeders and houses, designed to look like gold finches, woodpeckers, cardinals, hummingbirds, and other feathered favorites. (Lately their selection even includes a cow-shaped feeder).

The feeders and houses are their only products, and they are handmade in a woodshop on the family's property in Narvon. They are made from Eastern White Pine and painted with weatherproof paint. "When we started this, we wanted this to

honor and glorify God. We didn't want to put a cheap product out there that would only last a year," explains Dave. It was Dave's wife, Feenie, who came up with the idea to make bird feeders and bird houses with unique shapes. "We were trying to find a product that we thought would sell, but we didn't want to copy someone else. We were just watching and checking, and one day my wife found a magazine and it had a picture of a cardinal feeder, and she said, 'We're making this!'"

The Woodpecker Family makes thousands of feeders and houses each year. There are fifteen different feeders and thirteen different birdhouses. "We use thirteen different colors," Dave tells us. "Right now, there's three full-time, and four part-time workers. It's mostly family, but the

four part-timers are neighbor boys hired for this summer."

Any tips for attracting birds? "Just put the feeders out and keep feed in them." Dave assures us there's no special tricks. "Black oil sunflower seed works the best. Just about every bird likes it." "We just enjoy watching the birds," says Dave. "They're all interesting. Some can't eat out of the feeder. The next one comes along and he's a sloppy eater, and spills seed all over the place, and then the one that can't eat out the feeder comes along and he picks up the crumbs."

"It's just amazing how God created all the birds." The Woodpecker Family products are available at Good's Store, which has four locations in Lancaster County. See www.GoodsStores.com for directions, hours, and more information. 

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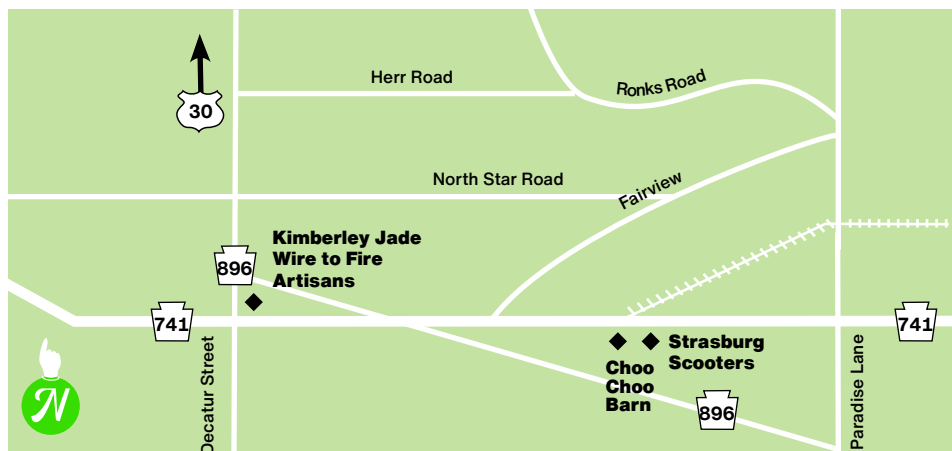


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Strasburg



Sometimes all you need is one horse power to get the job done.

Though not incorporated until 1816, the first dwellings in Strasburg can be dated to the 1730s. It was a principal stop for Conestoga Wagons along the road between Lancaster and Philadelphia. A remarkably intact village, it boasts a number of buildings constructed before 1815. While many visitors associate railroad attractions with Strasburg, there are many other fascinating people, places, and stories associated with the town...

The area which is Strasburg is now located was first settled by Swiss Mennonites (called "Swissers"). For at least a generation they lived in Germany before arriving here because they spoke the German language. After making

bargains with William Penn in London, they came directly to Philadelphia, from the Rhineland, arriving September 10, 1710, on board the ship *Maria Hope*—combined passenger and crew list of 94 persons.

Anchor was dropped off New Castle, Delaware, and one week later, they sailed into Philadelphia. Thirty-six of the leaders were granted patent deeds from Penn's property commissioners for 14,000 acres of land surrounding Strasburg—among familiar names were Martin Kendig, Hacob Miller, John (Hans) Herr, Christian Herr, Hans Graeff, Hans Funk, Martin Oberholtzer, Michael Oberholtzer, Wendel Rauman and Martin Meylin.

French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River—known as "Minqua's Path"—and later, as early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods between Philadelphia and Lancaster County, it became known as the Conestoga Road. The first wagoner was John Miller. By 1717 there were two more wagons, and the first to be described as a Conestoga Wagon.

During the next half century, traffic on this road increased considerably, and Main Street Strasburg was developed. The first buildings appeared in the village about 1733. A traveler, who drove through during the second half of the 18th century, described it as a village of log houses.

The 1769 tax returns list 19 houses—53 log, 29 brick and four stone. About half were 2-story, indicative of the affluence of Strasburg, which in the late 18th century, was second only to Lancaster Borough in terms of relative wealth. Generally the oldest houses were built "on the street," with almost no setback, but deep back yards and spacious and productive flower and vegetable gardens.

Strasburg flourished in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster and the Susquehanna River. Strasburg was one of the principal stopping stations and with the heavy wagon traffic it probably also had many rough travelers. At one time there were as many as eight or ten taverns or "ordinaries" here.

No doubt the religious nature of the first settlers was responsible for the village becoming a center for worship and education. In 1816, when the village was incorporated into a Borough, the name Strasburg was selected, undoubtedly named for the Cathedral City from which the "Swissers" came—Strasburg in Alsace.

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In 1791, bishop Francis Asbury preached in a tavern and reportedly said, "I believe we should have a house of worship and the Lord will have a people in this place." Later that year, Bishop Asbury organized the first Methodist congregation in Strasburg. In the early years of its development, the village was blessed with over a half dozen wealthy clergy and physicians, such as Bishop Asbury. Because of their education and religious background, Strasburg became a cultural and educational center.

Rev. Nathaniel Sample, a Presbyterian minister, was one such individual. In 1790 he founded the "Strasburg Philosophical Society," and in 1791 was also active in the creation of the "Strasburg Scientific Society." As far as is known, Rev. Sample founded Strasburg's first formal school in 1790—a classical academy in which he taught Greek and Latin. Sample also conducted a theological school in the east parlor of his home.

These academic enterprises near the close of the 18th century were followed during the 19th century by a flood of schools. On February 13, 1823, by an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania an Academy was established in which "the languages, arts, and sciences will be taught." Nathaniel Sample was listed as the first superintendent.

Rev. David McCarter, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg, also contributed significantly to establishing Strasburg as a cultural and educational center. In 1839 he founded the Strasburg Academy on 37 East Main (the present day Limestone Inn Bed & Breakfast was the headmaster's home and housed boarding students). The Academy gained the reputation of being one of the best academies in the country for both boarding and day students, and its students came from all over the East Coast and as far away as Cuba and Puerto Rico.

In 1841, Rev. McCarter opened a classical school for girls—the "Strasburg Female Seminary" at 17 East Main, quite an unusual act for his time.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressurized the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, an internal improvements bill passed in 1826 to construct a series of canals. The Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road was also incorporated with financing provided by the state.

With these undertakings, Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and from this concern emerged the Strasburg Rail Road.

In 1832 a charter was secured from the Pennsylvania Legislature to construct a line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia

Continued on Page 35



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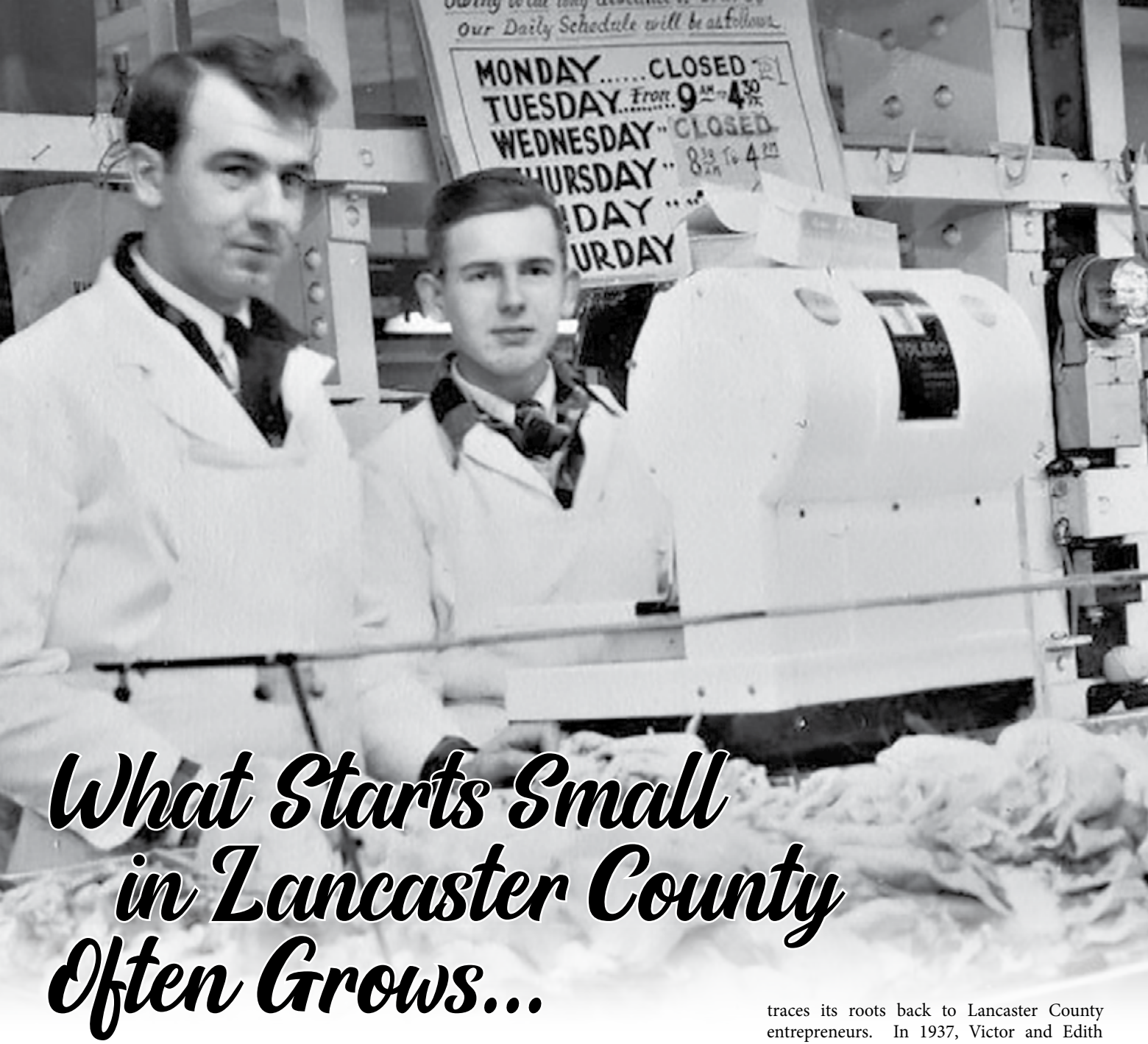
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What Starts Small in Lancaster County Often Grows...

By Clinton Martin

When you drive through Lancaster County, you will see many farms, with a few areas of heavy industry sprinkled in. Particularly notable is the small town of New Holland. As you drive down Route 23, you pass by (or rather under) the Lancaster Labs complex, which houses one of the country's largest contract laboratories. While it is now part of an international conglomerate corporation, employing 45,000 people worldwide, it was started by a visionary Lancaster County resident, Earl Hess, in 1961 – with just three employees in a lab smaller than a single family home.

Further down the road in New Holland you pass by a gigantic cheese factory, which is today part of Savencia Cheese Company (based in France.) The factory was founded in the 1930's by a group of Amish dairy farmers seeking a way to process the milk they were collecting. Not long after opening the factory, they hired local dairy expert Meyer Zausner to help them build up the business. He oversaw exponential growth, and the company came to be known as Zausner Foods. Growing and merging with various entities along the way, the company now produces many varieties of cheese foods, employing over 400 people.

And lastly, a stone's throw from the cheese factory is Tyson Chicken, a state-of-the-art chicken processing facility. This mega-factory

traces its roots back to Lancaster County entrepreneurs. In 1937, Victor and Edith Weaver packed 17 dressed chickens into the trunk of their car, and drove to a suburban Philadelphia farmers market. Having sold them, they returned home to Blue Ball (the neighboring town to New Holland) with a little bit of cash in their hands, and an idea in their head. They had a vision for growing their backyard company, and within a few months, they were processing 200 chickens a week. By the end of 1937, they had hired two employees to help with the work.

By the 1960's, Victor Weaver's Chicken had become the dominant force in the poultry business, at least in the northeast US, with 60% of regional market share. Chicken cold cuts for the grocery case and fried chicken in the

Continued on Page 34

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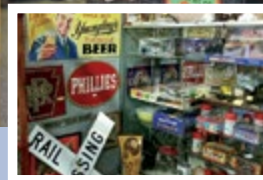
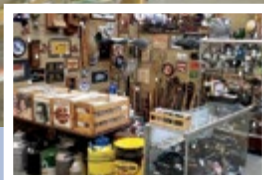
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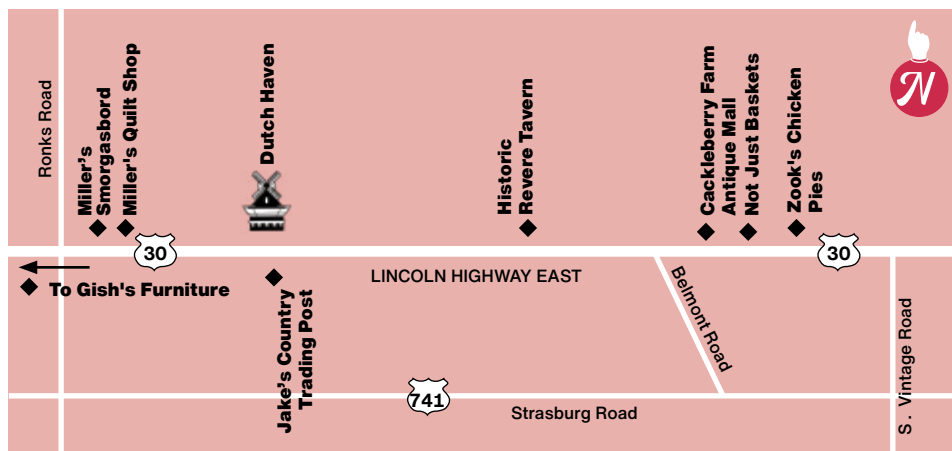
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A Town Called Paradise



How many cows does it take to stop a steam engine? Thankfully, we've never found out as the Strasburg Rail Road's real-life train excursions amble peacefully through the Amish farms.

For over 250 years, visitors coming into Lancaster County from the east have traveled through a small town known as Paradise. Officially, Paradise Township adopted the name during its organization in 1843. Different sources credit different people with naming the area. Some say that the name Paradise was given by Joshua Scott, who later become known for his map of Lancaster County. Standing in the middle of a road admiring his surroundings one day in 1804, he remarked that the town should be called Paradise, because its beauty made it "seem like a paradise."

The story of Paradise and its first settlers goes all the way back to Europe, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany. Here many Protestants settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. With fears of invasion by the army of France looming, many of these people decided to accept the invitation to settle in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods in

the New World. In 1708, Daniel Fierre (Ferree), along with his family and mother Mary, went to England to obtain citizenship papers before proceeding to New York.

By 1712, these French Huguenot settlers had secured land in Pennsylvania, in Lancaster's Pequea Valley. They were the first white people in the area and lived peaceably with chief Tanawa and the local Indians. Mary Fierre died four years later at the age of 63. Hers became the first grave in the family's cemetery. If you ride the Strasburg Rail Road, the "Road to Paradise," you will pass her grave site at Carpenter's Cemetery, one of Lancaster's oldest. (Not surprisingly, some people also credit Mary Ferree with naming Paradise.)

Later on, Joel Ferree, who some say was involved in the development of the Pennsylvania Rifle, gained some fame for his gun shop during the Revolutionary War. Responding to a letter from a committee that included Benjamin Franklin, he decided to enlarge his shop "to

promote my Business and to serve my Country in the Common Cause," hoping to double his weekly production of 15 to 20 gun barrels.

It should be noted that David Witmer, Sr. "is credited with the naming of the town of Paradise. Members of his own family criticized him for selecting the name 'Paradise' when he could have used 'Pequea' or 'Tanawa,' in honor of the Native American chief." David was apparently a friend of George Washington, and also a supervisor of a section of the Lancaster-Philadelphia Turnpike.

It was this road that was so important to the development of the village itself. The origins of Route 30, also known as the "Lincoln Highway," go back to Lancaster's colonial days when this frontier county needed a communication route between it and the provincial capital of Philadelphia. At that time, the first "planned" road between Philadelphia and Lancaster was what is now Route 340. It was called the "King's Highway," and today we still call it the "Old Philadelphia Pike."

Construction of the King's Highway began in 1733 and followed, in part, the old Allegheny Native American path. By modern standards, the name "highway" is really a misnomer because the road was only dirt, which became virtually impassable during rain and snow. As time went on, it became evident that the road could not accommodate the increasing traffic between Lancaster and Philadelphia.

A committee was created in 1786 to investigate the possibility of improving inland transportation within the state of Pennsylvania. The conclusion of the committee's work appeared on September 30, 1790, and resulted in the appointment of a commission to survey a route between Lancaster and Philadelphia. Since the cost of such a road was too much for




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the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from the tolls collected along the nine gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike.") To prevent travelers from evading tolls, the number of gates was later increased to thirteen.

The 1792 Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with larger stones underneath, rather than dirt, so as to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. Such a revolutionary system of road construction combined the ideas recently developed by a Frenchman and two Englishmen, one of whom was named John McAdam. We now take the term for paved roads or "macadam" from his last name. The turnpike officially opened in 1795 and was the first long-distance, hard-surfaced road in the country.

Originating in the Conestoga Valley of Lancaster County, the Conestoga wagon made an important contribution to the commerce and progress of our young nation. With patriotic red running gear, white canopy, and blue body, the wagon traveled the turnpike and rural roads from the late 1700's to the mid-1800's. The Conestoga wagon drivers often smoked thin, long cigars made from Lancaster County tobacco. These cigars were nicknamed "stogies," a shortened version of Conestoga. Another bit of lore associated with the wagons is why Americans drive their cars on the right side of the road. The lead horse was kept to the left of the Conestoga wagon, and the teamsters walked or rode on the left side. Therefore, the drivers always passed other wagons headed the same direction on the left side.

Of course, taverns and stagecoach shops grew up along the turnpike for the weary travelers (and horses) making the trip. Of these, the Revere Tavern still proudly stands today. Dating back to 1740, the stone building that was the "stage tavern" was called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle." It was one of the better inns along the 62 miles of turnpike, and catered to the more prosperous class of travelers, providing fine liquors and fine foods in generous portions to satisfy the hearty appetites generated by a long day riding a rocking, jolting stagecoach.

Almost a century later, in 1841, the tavern would become the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan, while the Reverend established and served as the pastor of All Saints Episcopal Church in Paradise.

Eliza, his wife, was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of America. Foster not only penned some of his music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to his sister, a talented musician in


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her own right, for her approval. There, on the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of the 200 songs written by Stephen, including "My Olde Kentucky Home," "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh, Susanna."

Nowadays, the Historic Revere Tavern remains an excellent place to dine, and

continues to offer lodging accommodations, just as it did hundreds of years ago. The tavern can be reached at 717.687.8602. And the back roads around Paradise remain beautiful to this day, as the lush greens of the summer give way to the fall colors of the harvest season. So, during your visit to Lancaster, be sure to spend a little time in Paradise. 



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What Starts Small...

Continued from Page 30

freezer aisle were some of the company's innovations.

The fact that Lancaster County has a Spanish-speaking population is almost entirely attributable to Victor Weaver as well, in that he personally recruited a work force from Puerto Rico as a way to address a labor shortage during the growing years of his company. When laborers from the US Territory would arrive in New Holland, he provided them with English lessons, and cultural awareness classes to help them fit in with their new community. He also founded a Spanish-speaking Mennonite church to further welcome his new workforce.

The Weavers were active members of their own Mennonite church, but were also very visible in the community at large by their many philanthropic efforts. Victor and Edith had become very wealthy from the poultry business, and were intentional about using their wealth for the betterment of the community around them.

Victor was one of 12 original board members for Philhaven Hospital (now part of Wellspan Health.) The local Mennonite conferences had combined their efforts to build a facility that would treat mental health as an actual health issue rather than as a condition which, more often than not, doomed the mentally ill of that era to fester in "insane asylums."

The company grew to a point, but basically plateaued with a north-eastern distribution network. Some of their products, with tag lines like "Step Aside Southern Fried" didn't sell too well south of the Mason-Dixon Line. A takeover by a National brand was practically inevitable, and thus at the end of the 1980s, Victor Weaver's Chicken was absorbed by Tyson.

As you explore Lancaster County, and patronize small family-owned businesses, who knows – maybe you'll return in 20 years to find the little shack you bought a pie and a bushel of corn out of has grown to be the area's Next Big Thing. It has all happened before! 

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CONVERSION...

A Rare Occurrence Among the Amish

By Clinton Martin

The Amish population is growing very rapidly. There are more Amish people today than there ever has been before. And tomorrow, there will be more Amish people than ever before. And the day after that... well. You get the idea. All one must do is read the birth announcements in the local paper to see the Amish community is growing.

In fact, studies by the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown University show that the Amish population is now doubling essentially every 20 years. The growth in Amish church membership is driven almost entirely by a high birthrate. In other words, the Amish tend to have large families.

Being born into an Amish family does not automatically mean being born into Amish church membership. Amish youth must choose as young adults if they wish to take the vow of Baptism (thus joining the church or not.) Most youth do join the church. So, seeing as the Amish tend to have more children than mainstream society around them, and seeing as most of those children join the church, and go on to have families of their own, one can see how the population would grow.

But, not every Amish person you meet was necessarily born into the faith. It is possible for an outsider to join the Amish. This is, however,

exceedingly rare. Rarer still is an “outsider” who joins and stays. Some Amish refer to an “English” person expressing interest in joining the Amish church as a “seeker.” Seekers will often live with an Amish family for a time, dressing as the Amish do, going to church services to understand the doctrine, steeping themselves in the customs, and of course learning the language (while Amish master the English language, their first language is PA Dutch, a German dialect.)

These seekers may eventually take the vow of Baptism. They may even thrive in the Amish community for a few years. But so often, they simply can’t maintain the culture, particular brand of Christianity, and traditions and “flame out” in a sense.

In part, seekers are so rare in the Amish church because the Amish do not proselytize (seek converts, evangelize, etc.) The Amish approach to bearing witness to the world is through acts of service, but one rarely, if ever, sees an Amish person on the street corner handing out literature, or sharing gospel messages with the world around them.

So, Amish converts aren’t sought, and honestly, when a seeker approaches an Amish person, they are often met with skepticism and reluctance. When seekers come, join, stay,

and then leave, it creates broken relationships, sometimes broken marriages, children without parents, etc.

All that being said, I am aware of one example of an “outsider” who joined the Amish, stayed a life long, and flourishes as an Amish church member. That would be David Luthy. Luthy was born into a devout Catholic family, became highly educated (Masters Degree from Notre Dame University) but decided to convert to the Amish faith as a young man.

He was baptized into the Amish church on September 18th, 1966, in LaGrange, Indiana. He was 24 at the time of his baptism. His first vocation in the Amish community was as a school teacher. In this role, he interacted with the local school supply vendor, which he eventually joined as an employee. Today, this organization is known as Pathway Publishers, and Luthy has written many of the primary readers still in use in many Amish schools nationwide. Over a million copies of these books have been sold over the years, mainly to Amish schools, but also to some Home School Groups. 56 years later, Luthy is still very much a member of the Amish church. So, while an extremely rare occurrence, yes it is possible for an “outsider” to join the Amish faith. 

Strasburg

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and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Due to financial difficulties, the project was delayed, but finally put in running order in 1852. But this shortline between Strasburg and Paradise was not financially successful for many reasons.

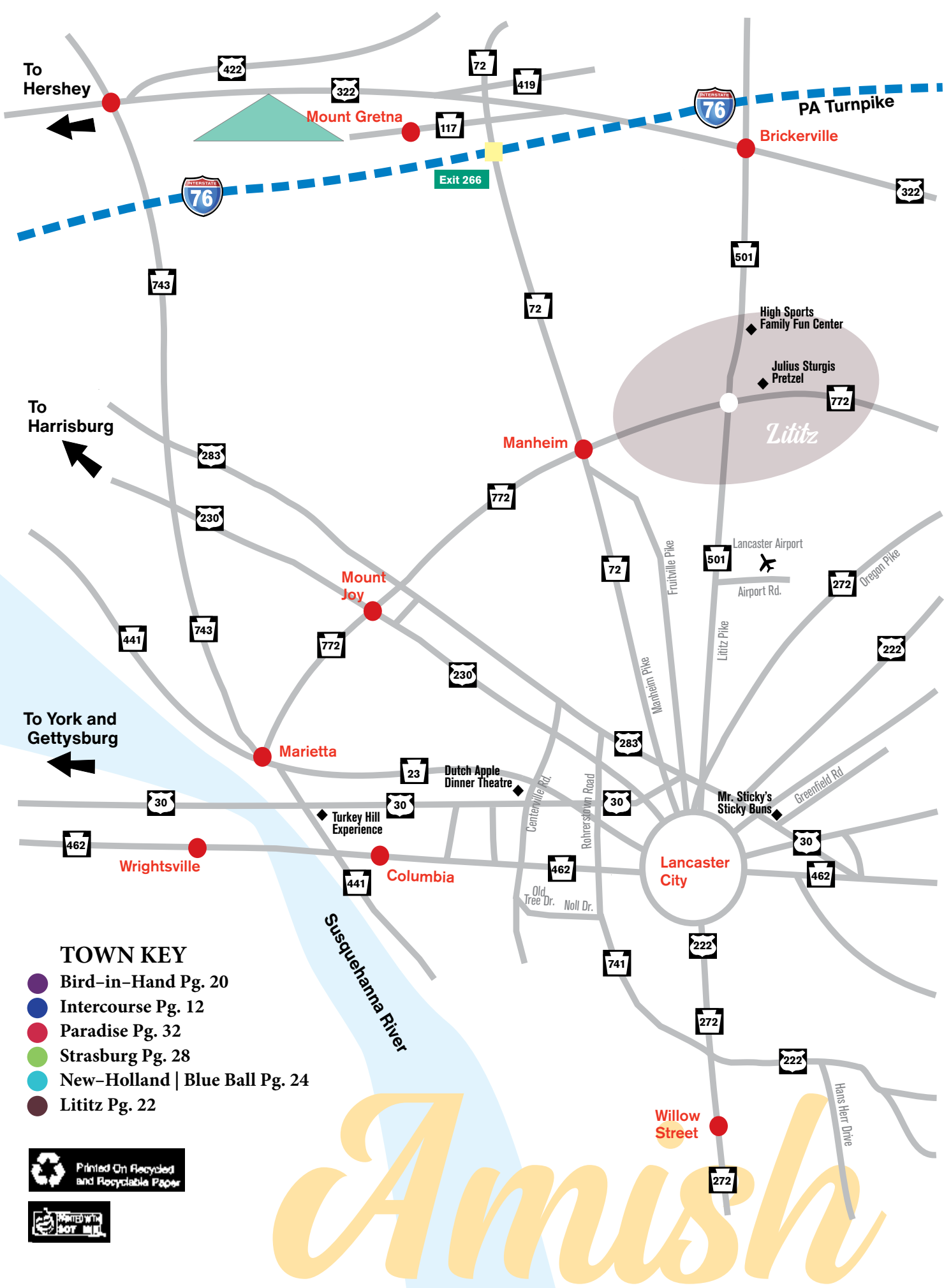
In recent years, as a visitor attraction, America’s oldest shortline railroad is finally popular and thriving as the Strasburg Rail Road. Young and old alike will enjoy a ride through the Amish Country on the 45-minute, narrated “Road to Paradise.” To learn more about the history of railroading Pennsylvania, visit the Rail Road Museum

of Pennsylvania across the street from the Strasburg Rail Road.

Most of the older houses along Main Street were at one time private schools and academies. With so many of the structures still intact, the Strasburg Borough Council enacted an ordinance in 1970 that created a Historic District, in order to maintain the charm and historical significance of the village. The ordinance prohibits the altering of the façades of structures without approval by a “Board of Architectural Review.” East Main, West Main and Miller (a continuation of West Main), plus Decatur Street constitute the Historic District, which is approximately 2 miles long, comprises 82.5 acres, and contains 193 buildings.

A significant aspect of the Historic District is the survival rate of the oldest buildings. At least 12 of the 29 oldest brick structures survive, all four of the oldest stone houses are still intact, and there are at least two dozen log houses still standing in the district, putting the survival rate of pre-1815 houses at approximately 50%.

The Strasburg Heritage Society Center has created a self-guided “Strolling Tour of Strasburg’s Historic District.” The Society exists to preserve historic buildings, artifacts and documents, educate local residents, restore historic buildings, and develop a deeper appreciation of the area’s rich cultural inheritance. 

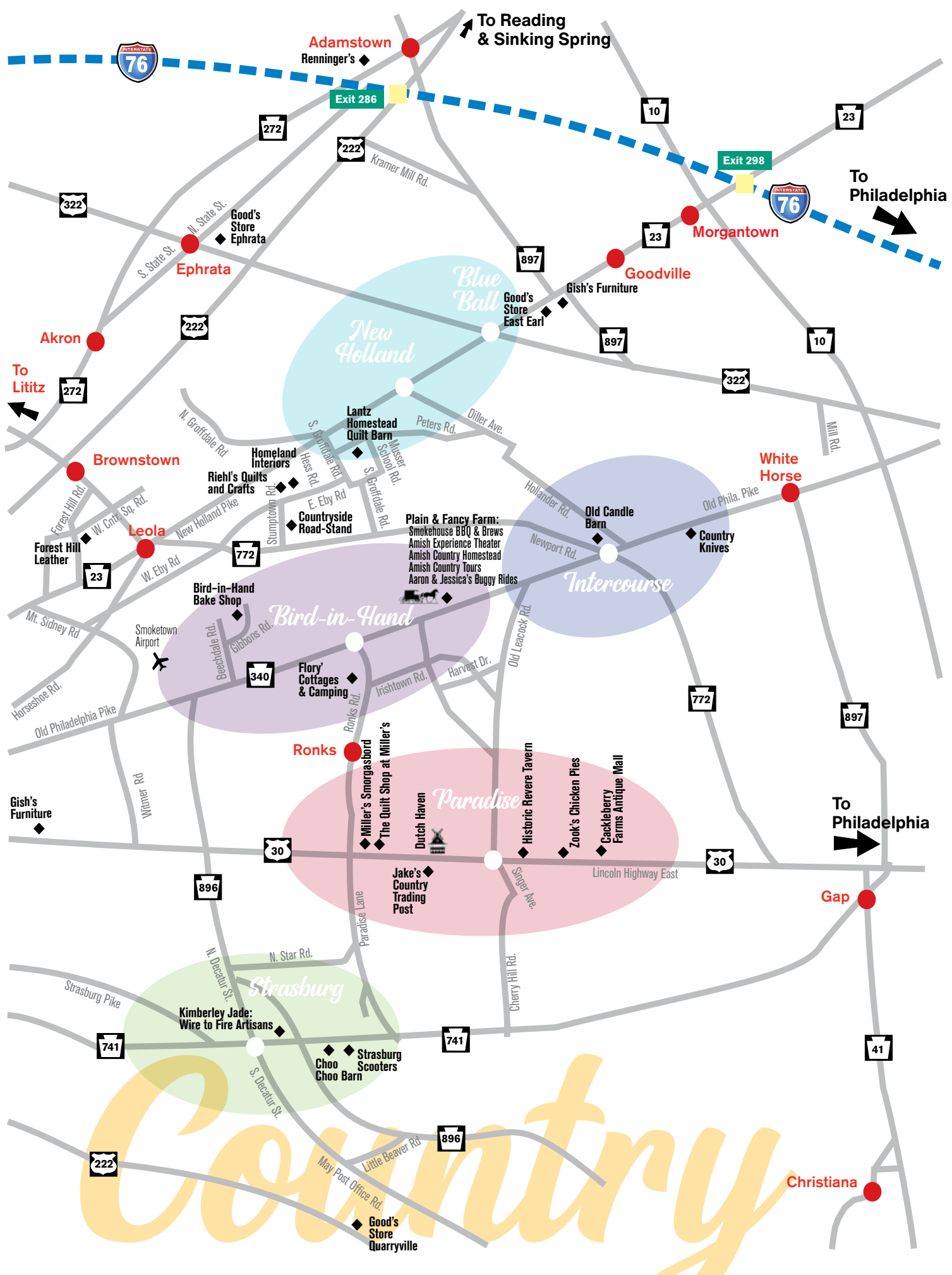


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Amish





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Amish Country News

PO Box 414 • Bird-in-Hand • PA 17505

717.768.8400, EXT. 217

www.AmishNews.com

Published by Dutchland Tours Inc.

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Kirk Simpson, Graphic Designer

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Publisher's Message



Communities Refresh as Mother Nature Awakens for Spring – The Community Spirit Renewed

When you come to Amish Country, you may have noticed a recent change in the air. As Old Man Winter slowly relinquishes his grasp, and we deal with the residual remnants of the recent frigid season. Mother Nature is awakening the land in preparation of spring! In turn, I find a sense of excitement and eagerness from a majority of the communities I visit and interact with on a daily basis. Be it Amish, Mennonite, or English, the expectations and renewal for a promising new season of rebirth is prevalent.

As each community prepares and continually gets even more busy in anticipation for what may come this season. Just like the flowers, baby animals, and the anticipated thaw of the landscape, there is simply a ton of electricity popping up everywhere for all the positive expectation and energy this season may bring. In turn, this gives me a shared resolution to embrace each of those communities' spirit, essentially renewed! I think to myself; What are the values that create these strong vibrant

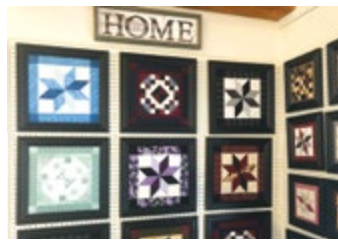
communities? These are just a couple of things, in my opinion, that get them to that point of success:

- Where People Make the Difference
- Environment
- Consistency
- Humility, Heart, and Vulnerability
- Integrity & Attitude
- Never Give Up!

With all of those qualities mentioned, it then makes me say, "Today, we can do hard things, and move forward together!" What an exciting time, this is what Community is all about! So, as we turn the final pages of winter and reach a newly inspired chapter of springtime, I encourage you to visit as many of those communities as possible in Amish Country and beyond. This way, you too can hopefully experience the same energy and expectation of each of those communities, as I have, and maybe you too will embrace that newly revived spirit that is life! Until next time, be safe, be well, and stay positive!

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